United Nations S/2018/844

Security Council

Distr.: General
17 September 2018
English
Original: Arabic

Identical letters dated 13 September 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I refer to my letter of 4 September 2018 to the President of the Security Council (ref.: PM/2018/360), which describes how armed terrorist groups abducted a number of innocent Syrian civilians, whom they would use to stage a fabricated chemical attack or to carry out an act of terrorism using toxic chemical substances. They would then accuse the Syrian Arab Army of carrying out the attack, thus providing the Governments of the United States of America, Britain and France with a pretext for another military attack against my country, Syria. I now wish to bring the following ominous facts to your attention:

The armed terrorist groups active in Idlib governorate and in the Aleppo countryside have abducted a number of Syrian civilians and children in those areas. The facts, along with circumstantial evidence, make it highly likely that the armed terrorist groups will use the innocent civilians to stage a fabricated chemical attack, and will then accuse the Syrian Army of committing that heinous crime. The names of the abducted Syrian civilians are set out below:

- Dr. Husam al-Din Dabis, director of the Aleppo city outpatient hospital;
- Ibrahim Khalid, from the town of Kafr Da'il, who was abducted west of Aleppo;
- Muhammad al-Shalash, from the town of Talhiyah, who was abducted south of Aleppo;
- Muhammad Hasan, from the Hass area, who was abducted south of Aleppo;
- Ziyad al-Shami, from the Damascus Ghutah, who was abducted north of Aleppo;
- Muhammad Nur al-Mahmud, from the village of Mughayr, who was abducted south of Aleppo;
- Ruqayyah Bakhuri, from the Na'urah area, who was abducted in Idlib governorate;
- Khalil al-Umar, from the Qal'at al-Madiq area, in Hama city;
- Muhammad Khadurdi, who was abducted in the Qal'at al-Madiq area of Hama;
- Abbudi Abdulnasir from the Abu al-Duhur area, who was abducted in the Ma'arr Shamsah area of south Idlib;

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- Abdulqadir al-Hasan from the Abu al-Duhur area, who was abducted in the Ma'arr Shamsah area of south Idlib;
- Abdulhadi al-Ahmad from Aleppo city, who was abducted in the town of Sarmadah in Idlib;
- Muhammad al-Yusuf from Afas village, near Saraqib;
- Subhi al-Shaykh Hamdi and his brother Muhammad al-Shaykh Hamdi from the city of Ma'arrat al-Nu'man, who were abducted in the Jabal al-Arba'in area;
- Sa'id al-Shawwaf, from the Ma'arrat al-Nu'man area, who was abducted in the Jabal al-Arba'in area;
- Umran al-Surani of the Ma'arrat al-Nu'man area, who was abducted in the Jabal al-Arba'in area;
- Three young siblings who were abducted from a camp near the town of Taramin in Idlib.

Concurrently with those abductions, on 31 August 2018, the armed terrorist groups active in Idlib city transported quantities of sarin gas to the National Hospital in Idlib.

By drawing your attention to these ominous facts, I wish to urge the Security Council to fulfil its mandate and prerogative to maintain international peace and security by bringing pressure to bear on the Governments of those Member States that have influence with the armed terrorist groups so that they can ensure that the groups refrain from using toxic chemical substances against Syrian civilians, free these and other abductees, and guarantee their safe return to their homes and families.

You will be aware that those three States have recently been threatening to carry out just such a military attack in order to protect the terrorists of the Nusrah Front, which has been included on the lists of the Security Council as a terrorist entity, as well as other associated terrorist groups. The Security Council must intervene earnestly and transparently to maintain international peace and security and enforce its own counter-terrorism resolutions, particularly resolution 2253 (2015).

I should be grateful if the present letter could be issued as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative